

with a hose, they remained undisturbed, and when I sat in the hammock they would change their course of flight from the nest and pass close to my head, and even come into the kitchen wash-day when the room was full of steam."

The above is the interesting account of these birds furnished me by the mistress of the house where they raised their brood. From the light it throws upon the habits of this species when under the influence of unusual environment, I deem it worthy of record. A few rods back of the house flows the Kalamazoo River, bordered by a fringe of willows, and it was doubtless these neighboring conditions that brought the birds to this peculiar nesting site.

AMERICAN HAWK OWL (*Surnia ulula caparoch*). Nov. 19, 1905, a fine-plumaged bird of this species was brought in to Mr. Eppinger to be mounted. With it came the information that it had been killed at Port Huron, St. Clair Co., Mich., and that several more had been taken in that neighborhood. This last statement I have been unable to verify with exact certainty as yet. The bird had not been long dead, as the lice upon it were still lively and crawling about. It was a male and had probably been killed the day before.

GREAT BLUE HERON (*Ardea herodias*). Among other recent interesting occurrences was the unusual numbers of this species taken late this fall. During the first week and a half of November Mr. Campion received eight of them from different persons to mount, all from the vicinity of the Point Mouille Marshes. All were immatures but one. This bird does not usually linger here as late as this in such numbers.—P. A. TAVERNER, *Detroit, Mich.*

**Some Nebraska Bird Notes.**—*Cinclus mexicanus*. DIPPER.—On page 680 of the recently published third volume of his 'Birds of North and Middle America,' Mr. Ridgway cites the reference by Mr. W. W. Cooke (Bird Migr. Miss. Valley, p. 264) to this species as abundant in Otoe County, Nebraska, and in a footnote points out that this record must be an error since the locality in question is bordering on the Missouri in the extreme eastern part of the State, in "the prairie region, a country different as possible from that inhabited by the present species." In this conclusion Mr. Ridgway is entirely correct, and it is perhaps worth while to point out the origin of the error. Mr. Cooke, as he states, obtained this record from Prof. Samuel Aughey's paper on the food habits of Nebraska Birds (Rept. U. S. Ent. Comm., Appendix II, p. 16) where under the name "*Cinclus mexicanus*, Sw.," he says: "Rare in Nebraska. Seen it for the first time in August on the Niobrara, about seven miles from its mouth, in a dense timber. I was near enough to observe it eating locusts. Hon. J. Sterling Morton says that they are abundant in Otoe County." Examining Aughey's paper it will be seen that in juxtaposition to the technical name of the Dipper is the common name "Western Bluebird,"

and it is clear from the locality and habitat mentioned that the record belongs with the common name, having been inadvertently inserted under *Cinclus* by the printer, while the note intended for the Dipper was entirely crowded out by the same individual. Similarly, the note following, on the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, will be found also out of its proper place, being inserted under the family Cinclidae. The record of the Western Bluebird from the Niobrara made by Aughey himself is probably a valid one, but the reported abundance of the species in Otoe County is almost certainly a misidentification by Mr. Morton for the common Bluebird which was and still is abundant there.

**Progne subis.** PURPLE MARTIN.—This year I have seen the Purple Martin commonly across the State; at Imperial June 22, at Culbertson June 23–25, at Stratton June 28, and at Glen, Sioux County, August 5–23. Our previous westernmost record was from North Platte.

**Spizella socialis arizonæ.** WESTERN CHIPPING SPARROW.—The suspicion expressed on p. 88 of the 'Birds of Nebraska' has proved true. A breeding pair of the Chipping Sparrow obtained by me at Glen, Sioux County, August 6, 1905, are very decidedly of the western race. These specimens substantiate the recording of this bird as another addition to our State list.

**Cyanocitta stelleri annectens.** BLACK-HEADED JAY.—The second record for the State rests upon a bird seen by Prof. Bruner and myself in Warbonnet Cañon, Sioux County, August 9, 1905.

**Corvus brachyrhynchos.** CROW.—This bird is increasing in Sioux County. The Glen flock mentioned in the 'Birds of Nebraska' has this year increased to twenty-eight.

**Selasphorus platycercus.** BROAD-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD.—A pair of these hummers was seen each day about our camp at Glen, August 18–22, feeding at *Cleome* flowers. I feel quite sure that they bred in the vicinity this year.

**Actitis macularia.** SPOTTED SANDPIPER.—Additional western Nebraska records for this species are a pair seen on a sandbar near Stratton, June 28, evidently breeding near, and three seen at a small pond near Fort Robinson, August 23, in company with several Solitary Sandpipers.—MYRON H. SWENK, *Dept. Entomology and Ornithology, University of Nebraska.*

**Should Bird Protection Laws and their Enforcement be in the Hands of the National Government?**—There are several reasons why the protection of birds should be in the hands of the National Government.

In the first place, the law which protects bird life from wanton destruction should be uniform throughout the country, and no State or Territory should be without it. As the formulating of the law is a task which requires some knowledge of birds and their habits, and since this knowledge cannot be expected to be possessed by State legislators, the wording of the law